

Amendment and Response

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For: BIFIDOBACTERIA AND SIDEROPHORES PRODUCED THEREBY AND METHODS OF USE

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B¹ cont. preferably by at least about 50%. Most preferably, the doubling time of an indicator strain in the presence of a siderophore is undetectable.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 8, amend claims 29 and 41, and add new claims 43 and 44.

The amended and new claims are provided below in clean form. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, amended claims are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate changes made (for convenience, all pending claims, including those added hereby, are provided in Appendix A).

B² 29. (Amended) A composition comprising a *Bifidobacterium* that secretes a siderophore, wherein the composition comprises substantially no free iron, comprises an iron chelator, or a combination thereof.

B³ 41. (Amended) A composition consisting essentially of a *Bifidobacterium* that secretes a siderophore.

B⁴ 43. (New) A composition comprising a *Bifidobacterium* that can secrete a siderophore, wherein the composition is for use as a probiotic.

44. (New) A composition comprising a *Bifidobacterium* that can secrete a siderophore, and a food.